

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile on July 12, 2006, to facsimile number (571) 273-8300, and is addressed to MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Sarah M. Barnett

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED**

**PATENT**  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 04853.0121-00000

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

MITSUHASHI et al.

Application No.: 10/519,212

371(c) Date: December 27, 2004

International Filing Date: June 27, 2003

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING  
LACTONE

)  
)  
) Group Art Unit: 1651  
)  
) Examiner: Herbert J. LILLING  
)  
) Confirmation No.: 7322  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

**JUL 12 2006**

**MAIL STOP AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PLEASE ENTER  
HJR  
July 21, 2006

**RESPONSE AFTER FINAL**

Applicants now respond to the Final Office Action mailed May 8, 2006. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments. Applicants also respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8.